

The rules governing family and subfamily names are not given but we fail to see how the name *Peltohyatinae* can be used when *Peltohyas* has been rejected in favor of *Eudromias* for the only species of the group, *E. australis*, which is the monotypic type of *Peltohyas*!

We regret exceedingly that we cannot endorse this Check-List for general use. Aside from all questions of nomenclature, it would serve a valuable purpose as a conservative list of Australian species and subspecies; but here it fails, in-as-much as the lack of synonymy makes it difficult or impossible to ascertain with which forms the many recently described races have been united.— W. S.

**Riley on Birds of the Mount Robson Region.**<sup>1</sup> — During July, August and September, Messrs. J. H. Riley and Ned Hollister of the U. S. National Museum joined the expedition of the Alpine Club of Canada to the Mt. Robson region of the Canadian Rockies, for the purpose of making a general survey of the fauna and flora. The general account of the expedition has been published in volume IV of the Club's Journal while this special number contains the scientific reports.

Mr. Hollister contributes an account of the mammals, and a list of the reptiles and batrachians, Mr. Riley reports on the birds and Mr. Paul C. Standley on the plants. The route included Jasper House, Henry House, then through the Yellow head Pass and up the Moose River to Moose Pass and Moose Pass branch of the Smoky River, with a stay on the Fraser River east of Moose Lake on the return.

Seventy-eight species of birds are listed including a Song and Fox Sparrow which Mr. Riley has described as new in a previous paper. Bohemian Waxwings were evidently breeding on the west fork of the Moose River, as a specimen obtained July 14 contained an egg nearly ready to be deposited. These birds were much paler than winter examples and similar individuals undoubtedly, as Mr. Riley suggests, formed the basis for Reichenow's subspecies *Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps* from Shesly River, B. C.

Mr. Riley found *Zonotrichia gambeli* and *Z. leucophrys* apparently nesting in the same spot while *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* and *J. oregonus shufeldti* were nesting together at Henry House, Yellowhead Pass and at the foot of Moose Pass, with no sign of intergradation. On the strength of this evidence he ranks them as distinct species. *Penthestes hudsonicus columbianus* is recognized as a distinct form and *Lagopus leucurus peninsularis* is considered as no more distinct from true *leucurus* than is *L. l. altipetens*, the two being respectively the northern and southern extremes of the White-tailed Ptarmigan. Mr. Riley contends with apparent justice that both or neither should be recognized.

<sup>1</sup> Birds Collected or Observed on the Expedition of the Alpine Club of Canada to Jasper Park, Yellowhead Pass, and Mount Robson Region. By J. H. Riley. Canadian Alpine Journal, Special Number. Alpine Club of Canada (Treas. S. H. Mitchell, Sidney, Vancouver Island, B. C.) 8vo, pp. 1-97 (Birds 47-75). Price \$1.00.

Interesting observations are given on the plumage of grouse and ptarmigan, and of the young of the Pipit.

The paper is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of an interesting region and will aid materially in ascertaining the exact range and relationship of the birds of the northern Rockies.—W. S.

**Riley on New Neotropical Birds.**—Through the courtesy of Mr. Chas. T. Ramsden, Mr. Riley was enabled to examine a series of the resident King Rail of Cuba which, as he had suspected,<sup>1</sup> proved to be separable and is consequently named, *Rallus elegans ramsdeni*.

Three Hummingbirds of the genus *Chlorostilbon* in the U. S. National Museum, obtained on the Purus River, Brazil, are found by Mr. Riley to be unlike any known species of the genus and are described<sup>2</sup> as *Chlorostilbon puruensis*.

Owing to the transfer of the name *Tanagra* from the Blue Tanagers to the Euphonias Mr. Riley considers that *Euphonia sclateri* Sundeval 1869, now *Tanagra sclateri*, renders *Tanagra sclateri* Berlepsch 1880 untenable for the Blue Tanager of Trinidad, and renames it *Thraupis episcopus nesophilus*.<sup>3</sup> We cannot however see the necessity for such action. The two species were described under different generic names and are still in different genera.—W. S.

**Todd on the Genus Chæmepelia.**<sup>4</sup>—We seldom find a more elaborate or painstaking monograph than that which Mr. Todd here presents on the Ground Doves. Incidentally it illustrates how apt we are, in our haste to propose new names and straighten out matters of nomenclature, to overlook the work of our predecessors along the same lines. This genus has been a storm center in such matters. Some years ago diverse opinions were held as to whether the Linnæan name *passerina* should apply to the Jamaican Ground Dove or to that of the southeastern United States, one receiving one new name and the other two, in consequence. Then came a controversy as to whether *Columbina* or *Chæmepelia* was the proper name for the genus. This was referred to a national and international committee with the result that it was declared still an open case to be settled by the first person to definitely designate a type. An immediate designation followed.

Mr. Todd however, by a little bibliographic research now shows us that

<sup>1</sup> The King Rail of Cuba, By J. H. Riley, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 83-86, March 22, 1913.

<sup>2</sup> A New Hummingbird of the Genus *Chlorostilbon* from Brazil. By J. H. Riley, do. pp. 63-64, March 22, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> A New Name for *Tanagra sclateri* Berlepsch. By J. H. Riley, do., XXV, pp. 185-188. December 24, 1912.

<sup>4</sup> A Revision of the Genus *Chæmepelia*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Ann. Carnegie Mus. VIII, pp. 507-603, May 8, 1913.